

To: Breen, Barry[Breen.Barry@epa.gov]
From: Natarajan, Nitin
Sent: Sun 8/9/2015 6:53:54 PM
Subject: Re: Notes from 1600 call

Will do

Nitin Natarajan
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
Environmental Protection Agency
202-566-0200 Office

On Aug 9, 2015, at 14:52, Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov> wrote:

This was so helpful. Could you do the same again after today 's call?

From: [Natarajan, Nitin](#)
Sent: 8/8/2015 5:11 PM
To: [Stanislaus, Mathy](#); [Breen, Barry](#); [Cheatham, Reggie](#)
Cc: [Natarajan, Nitin](#)
Subject: Notes from 1600 call

Below are my notes from the 1600 call.

Reggie - If you have any additional info or changes, feel free to add.

Region 8

Flow is down to 548 gallons/minute....down from over 700 gallons/minute yesterday
Construction of the settlement ponds is complete. The ph of water leaving the mine is now 5....better than before the incident

It is predicted that the total discharge will now be around 3 million gallons not 1 million as previously thought. The region is working closely with USGS and other to firm up the estimate and the messaging around the estimate. We expect a validated number tomorrow. The USGS has a discharge station just downstream so we are confident that the reported numbers will be accurate.

The leading edge is at the San Juan river. ASPECT continues to do flyovers that are being utilized by the regions. The overall flow is down to 3 miles per hour

Sediment is starting to settle

Concentrations between Silverton and Durango are down to pre-incident levels

There's a press release being drafted to be released any minute now with a public update of some of this information

Today R8 is hosting a press call at 1500L and congressional call at 1600L. It was suggested that those be swapped going forward to ensure congressional notification first.

The narrative on the data is almost complete. Hope to have it ready later this evening. If completed tonight....a separate press call will take place to ensure the timely release of the information

In Colorado it is estimated that 1000 private wells may be impacted. They are providing bottled water and are working through the local health departments to conduct water testing as requested.

In NM, they are working to share data on potentially impacted private wells.

It was stressed that there be consistency between R6 and R8 in their efforts (i.e. - bottled water, water testing, etc)

R6 is moving a mobile unit to Farmington as well as a mobile lab to assist with testing. The plume reached Farmington within the last few hours. They expect 10-15 EPA staff to be onsite.

R9 has deployed an OSC to Durango and one to Navajo Nation

Senator Bennet may travel out to the area tomorrow

Messaging

Need to consider pivoting messaging from "EPA caused this" to "this has been a long standing issue of neglect on behalf of many that EPA is trying to fix...." while still ensuring that we own this issue and are putting resources towards correcting need

Need to look at cost figures (Matt mentioned his comms with Barry from earlier today)

Need to make sure we are sharing as much data as possible and messaging the resources we have invested in this and continue to invest in addressing this issue.

Tribal

Good engagement with Southern Ute.

Navajo Nation has begun baseline testing to understand the current levels before the plume reaches them.

BLM has increased the water flow from the Navajo dam in hopes that it will help dilute the water as it reaches that part of the waterway.

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